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FOREIGN CROPS, JUNE, 1911.

PREPARED BY

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INTRODUCTION.

Features of current agricultural news are the bumper wheat harvest of British India and the record area sown to spring wheat in western Canada. In other respects foreign agriculture during the past month has in general made average seasonable progress. In Argentina, the great wheat and flaxseed exporter of the Southern Hemisphere, the autumn-sown crops have entered June—the first month of the trans-equatorial winter—in vigorous condition and on probably largely increased areas. Sowings are for the most part finished. The recently gathered corn crop has turned out worse than expected and little or no surplus, it is said, will be available for export. The corn crop of South Africa is also reported damaged by drought and the surplus for the external trade will be practically nil.

The 1911 wheat harvest of British India—the initial one in the Northern Hemisphere—has surpassed all previous records, the yield having been officially estimated at 369,000,000 bushels, against 358,000,000 in the spring of 1910 and a previous high record of 360,000,000 in 1904.

In the spring-wheat provinces of western Canada, where over 90 per cent of the Dominion wheat crop is grown, meteorological conditions have almost everywhere been unusually favorable to seeding and to subsequent germination and growth. It is known that from 1,000,000 to 1,200,000 acres more are under this cereal than were sown last year. The present aspect of the fields gives rise to seemingly extravagant estimates of probable yields, the soil in most districts being now well supplied with a reserve of moisture.

The agricultural situation in Europe at present gives few really definite causes for complaint, but there is a notable lack of optimism in almost all countries over the probable yield of winter cereals. The sentiment seems to gain ground, as the season progresses, that the European wheat crop will fall considerably short of the 2,000,000,000 bushel mark of each of the past two years. In some important producing countries the condition of the rye crop is inferior to that of wheat.

In western Europe—Great Britain, France, Spain, and Italy—where in 1910 the aggregate yield of wheat was roundly 100,000,000 bushels under average, the present prospect, it is true, is for a clearly larger outturn than last season; but in the countries of central and eastern Europe, where at this time a year ago expressions of confidence in record or near-record crops were common, public sentiment inclines to belief in average or even under-average results.

In Great Britain all vegetation is flourishing, the principal sources of discontent being thin stands of late-sown wheat. In France, because of a rainy seedtime last autumn, the surface under winter wheat shows a decrease of over 1,000,000 acres, but increased sowings of the spring variety has reduced the total deficiency under all wheat to 600,000 acres. There is also a shortage of over 300,000 acres in the rye acreage, but a heavy increase in the land laid down to barley and oats. The surface under all the above-named grains is about 600,000 acres less than that under the same crops in 1910. The spring in France has been fairly favorable to vegetation, and prospects, though not brilliant, are much brighter than last season. The outlook in Spain and Italy is likewise indicative of better returns than a year ago.

In countries of central and eastern Europe the acreage under winter wheat and rye has been reduced to some extent by replowings necessitated by late spring freezes. In Germany the reduction amounted to 2.9 per cent of the total wheat area and 2.3 per cent of the rye; the indications are that quite appreciable losses from this cause were also incurred in the other countries. The replowed lands do not, of course, constitute a total loss to agriculture, as the abandoned acreage is doubtless sown to spring crops; they are of importance chiefly as affecting the two great sources of bread supply.

The appearance of the autumn-sown grain in the central and eastern part of the Continent though in many localities the subject of favorable comment is in general not so promising as of even date last year when, however, the aspect of vegetation was exceptionally flattering. Both the wheat and the rye crop of Germany and Austria are officially returned as inferior in condition to the preceding season, rye in each country being rated much lower than wheat. The Hungarian cereals have made great improvement. Reports from Roumania and southern Russia indicate that all crops, particularly the spring sown, have been severely tried by drought, but the definite extent of the injury, if any, is unknown. Abundant rains are reported to have fallen over the greater part of the drought-affected territory at the end of May.

CANADA.

The center of agricultural interest for a month past has been the enormous prospective increase in the spring-wheat area of Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and Alberta, three Provinces whose rapid advance in the culture of this cereal has won them the distinction of having within their boundaries upward of 90 per cent of the total wheat acreage of the Dominion. In 1910 the addition to the surface under wheat in these Provinces was, according to the Dominion Department of Agriculture, 1,507,000 acres, their total aggregating 8,395,000 acres against 6,878,000 in 1909. This season that increase was believed to have been quantitatively duplicated, but a late official esti-

mate of the extent sown in 1911 makes the area about 9,500,000 acres. Saskatchewan is easily the premier wheat-producing Province; of the 9,294,800 acres under this grain in the Dominion last year, 52 per cent was in Saskatchewan, against only 6 per cent in Alberta and 32 per cent in the older and more thickly settled Province, Manitoba. Naturally the rapid expansion of wheat culture is more marked in the newer Provinces, as is indicated by the fact that last season there was an increase of 32 per cent in the area under this cereal in Saskatchewan, 38 per cent in Alberta, and only 7 per cent in Manitoba.

Cold weather in the three Provinces retarded farm work somewhat in April, and seeding operations were not completed in all parts until the latter half of May. Subsequent conditions in almost all districts have been exceptionally propitious to germination and growth. The country everywhere is now said to present an exceptionally thriving aspect, ample moisture having fallen in practically all districts.

A report of the Dominion Department of Agriculture under date of June 10 states:

The season this year has been favorable for field crops in all parts of Canada, and excellent reports have been received from all the Provinces. The lowest percentage of condition is made for fall wheat, which suffered from inadequate protection in the winter months, and also to some extent from spring frosts. The areas of fall wheat are greater than last year by 4.50 per cent and of spring wheat by 13.70 per cent. The total area in wheat is 10,503,400 acres, as compared with 9,294,800 in 1910 and 7,750,400 in 1909. The per cent condition of fall wheat at the end of May was 80.63, and of spring wheat 96.69. The area in oats is 10,279,800 acres and its condition 94.76, as compared with 9,864,100 acres and 93.95 per cent condition last year. Barley and rye each show a small decrease in area, but the condition is higher than at the same period last year. Slight decreases are also reported for areas of peas, mixed grains, and hay and clover, with per cent condition of over 90. Hay and clover have a reported condition of 91.45 for the Dominion, being practically 100 in Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta.

An official report has recently been issued upon the foreign trade of the Dominion in the fiscal year ended March 31, 1911. The figures on the exports of a few important domestic products are as follows with comparisons:

Exports of domestic wheat, wheat flour, barley, oats, and flaxseed from Canada.

Year ended March 31—	Wheat.	Wheat flour.	Barley.	Oats.	Flaxseed.
	Bushels.	*Barrels.*	*Bushels.*	*Bushels.*	*Bushels.*
1911	45,802,115	3,049,046	1,545,253	5,431,662	2,696,119
1910	49,741,350	3,064,028	2,044,901	3,401,730	1,997,648
1909	49,137,449	1,738,038	2,959,335	5,255,610	693,779
1908	43,654,668	1,962,740	1,990,444	7,123,291	10,997
1907	25,480,127	1,092,123	1,198,130	4,539,436	121,582

A striking feature is the rapid increase in the exports of flaxseed. Practically the entire shipments are to Great Britain and the United

States; of the 1911 exports, 1,099,057 bushels went to the former and 1,597,062 to the latter, whereas in 1910 1,476,769 bushels were shipped to Great Britain, 449,739 bushels to the United States, and only 71,140 bushels to all other countries.

BRITISH INDIA.

The Commercial Intelligence Department of the Government of India has recently issued its estimate of the yields of wheat and flaxseed in that dependency in the spring of 1911. As was expected, a new record is established in wheat production. Moreover, the yield of flaxseed has been surpassed but twice in the history of the country—once in 1894 when 25,000,000 bushels were reaped and again in 1904 when the crop amounted to 22,895,000 bushels. The estimates, by Provinces, are given below with comparisons for the five previous years.

Production of wheat and flaxseed in British India by Provinces, 1907–1911.

WHEAT (bushels of 60 pounds).

Province.	1911	1910	1909	1908	1907
	Bushels.	*Bushels.*	*Bushels.*	*Bushels.*	*Bushels.*
Punjab	134,400,000	129,106,133	114,322,133	92,904,000	121,964,267
United Provinces	108,266,667	111,436,267	79,296,000	62,522,133	80,808,000
Central Provinces and Berar	35,466,667	35,686,933	26,084,800	18,241,067	33,753,067
Bombay	17,733,333	15,553,067	14,306,133	12,551,467	12,626,133
Sind	4,666,667	4,842,133	4,995,200	4,229,867	6,955,200
Bengal	22,400,000	20,186,133	11,939,200	11,170,133	14,511,467
North West Frontier	10,266,667	8,780,800	7,963,200	7,959,467	11,394,133
Eastern Bengal and Assam	746,667	944,533	530,133	795,200	1,190,967
Central India	22,400,000	19,174,400	14,836,267	10,128,533	22,945,067
Hyderabad	3,733,333	2,534,933	2,673,067	2,508,800	4,069,733
Rajputana	9,333,333	9,680,533	7,406,933	4,950,400	6,779,733
Mysore	18,667	14,933	7,467	22,400	26,133
Total	369,432,001	357,940,798	284,360,533	227,983,467	317,023,500

FLAXSEED (bushels of 56 pounds).

United Provinces:					
Pure	4,000,000	2,512,000	1,220,000	260,000	2,240,000
Mixed	6,000,000	4,800,000	3,120,000	1,200,000	4,520,000
Central Provinces and Berar	5,000,000	3,640,000	3,304,000	940,000	4,248,000
Eastern Bengal	600,000	612,000	432,000	460,000	536,000
Bengal	4,800,000	4,356,000	2,468,000	2,964,000	4,048,000
Hyderabad	1,200,000	736,000	688,000	544,000	1,144,000
Bombay	1,000,000	448,000	320,000	160,000	272,000
Total {pure	16,600,000	12,304,000	8,432,000	5,328,000	12,488,000
Total {mixed	6,000,000	4,800,000	3,120,000	1,200,000	4,520,000
	22,600,000	17,104,000	11,552,000	6,528,000	17,008,000

The exports of flaxseed for the five latest years for which statistics are available are as follows:

Exports of flaxseed from British India, 1905–6 to 1909–10.

Year ending March 31—	Share of.			Total.
	Bengal.	Bombay.	Other Provinces.	
	Bushels.[1]	*Bushels.*[1]	*Bushels.*[1]	*Bushels.*[1]
1905–6	5,511,774	6,059,534	6,412	11,577,720
1906–7	5,077,564	3,679,254	834	8,757,652
1907–8	7,894,632	4,500,376	756	12,395,764
1908–9	4,358,156	2,060,700	238	6,419,094
1909–10	5,774,018	3,580,242	34	9,354,294

[1] Bushels of 56 pounds.

A characteristic feature of this vast and densely peopled country, whose superficial area—1,767,000 square miles—equals that of all Europe, less Russia, and supports a population of about 300,000,000 souls, is its extensive system of irrigation. Out of an annual area of upward of 210,000,000 acres under all crops, upward of 40,000,000 acres or about one-fifth, is artificially supplied with moisture. Of the various methods of irrigation employed canals are the most important, and in recent years the most exploited, especially in the wheat-growing north where they are fed by rivers having their sources in the Himalayas. Canals constructed and owned by the Government, according to the latest official figures, furnish water for from 16,000,000 to 18,000,000 acres, while those privately owned irrigate about 2,000,000 acres more. Between 12,000,000 and 14,000,000 acres are furnished moisture annually from wells, about 5,000,000 from the immense reservoirs, which in the vernacular of the country are known as tanks, and an additional 3,000,000 or 4,000,000 acres are supplied by other public and private undertakings. Needless to say, these extensive irrigating enterprises as a whole represent years of combined effort to avert recurrences of the disastrous, drought-induced famines from which this country has frequently suffered. As an indication of the progress made, about one-half of the wheat lands in the important wheat-producing territory comprised in the Punjab and United Provinces is now artificially watered; and, even taking the Empire as a whole, fully one-third of the annual wheat crop is grown on irrigated soil.

ARGENTINA.

The advent of the transequatorial winter, June 1, finds autumn seedings for the most part completed. During the sowing season practically all parts of the grain belt were at one time or another well saturated with rain; this circumstance has turned the trend of opinion to belief in a heavy increase in the areas under wheat, oats, and flax, both flax and oats in this country being autumn sown. Corn husking is about over, and the yield far below the most pessimistic expecta-

tions, an official of the Ministry of Agriculture having recently stated that there will be no surplus for export.

GREAT BRITAIN.

Excepting for a drop in temperature late in the month, May realized all its best traditions. Long hours of sunshine, refreshing showers, and gradually increasing warmth infused strength and vigor into the somewhat laggard vegetation and gave the landscape everywhere an aspect of promise appropriate to the season. The spring-sown crops are almost universally spoken of favorably, especially the early sown; the appearance of barley and oats with few exceptions is above average, and that of beans, peas, and potatoes good. The prospect for fruit is reported rarely ever to have been so bright. Reports concerning the autumn-sown grain, however, still show considerable variations, many complaints being still made of the thin stand of the late-sown wheat.

As is well known, the United Kingdom derives some four-fifths of its wheat and wheat flour supply from foreign sources. Of the six great exporting countries which contribute to her demands the United States usually stands first, but in 1910 Russia took first rank, and imports from the United States fell below even those of Canada. Expressing wheat flour in terms of wheat, i. e., assuming 1 barrel of flour to be equivalent to 4½ bushels of wheat, the imports into the United Kingdom during each of the past five years have been:

Imports of wheat and wheat flour into the United Kingdom, calendar years 1906–1910.

Country of origin.	1910	1909	1908	1907	1906
	Bushels.	*Bushels.*	*Bushels.*	*Bushels.*	*Bushels.*
United States	33,751,211	46,753,850	73,710,389	62,611,639	67,206,839
Canada	37,879,717	36,311,657	30,360,438	27,999,520	25,767,010
Argentina	28,506,771	37,623,493	59,448,133	41,008,146	36,178,503
Russia	54,022,653	33,310,368	9,607,939	20,347,227	28,200,667
British East Indies	33,444,578	27,315,307	5,504,613	34,103,253	23,554,240
Commonwealth of Australia	25,534,626	19,446,566	10,892,840	15,876,394	15,919,529
Other countries	9,033,631	10,316,574	10,879,529	13,623,977	13,333,980
Total	222,173,187	211,077,815	200,403,881	215,570,156	210,160,768

FRANCE.

Although the present prospect is for a heavier yield than the very deficient one of last season, it is pretty generally accepted that the 1911 wheat crop is likely to be quantitatively under average. Last year's output, it may be recalled, was 259,000,000 bushels; as the average crop is about 340,000,000 bushels, the import requirements were commonly estimated at 80,000,000 bushels, of which 58,663,402 bushels were brought in during the nine months ended April 30, 1911. This season (1911) the winter-wheat area sown is officially put at over a million acres less than that harvested last year, and, although

fields drilled early last autumn generally look fine, a goodly proportion of the late-sown seed did not germinate well and a thin stand in some places has resulted. During the past month, however, under the influence of warm sunshine and pretty well distributed rainfall, the growing wheat, as well as all vegetation, made vast improvement, and in almost all regions expressions of satisfaction now outnumber the complaints. Of other crops the condition of rye, which ordinarily occupied about one-fifth as much land as wheat, is probably the least satisfactory, the plants having suffered from cold weather in April and from the ravages of vermin. Spring-sown oats, in the early stages of their development widely spoken of as irregular in growth, now show great betterment, as does winter barley, concerning which there had been complaints in some districts.

Below is given the preliminary estimate of the French Ministry of Agriculture on the areas sown to cereals in 1911, compared with 1910, preliminary and final.

Preliminary estimates of areas sown in France, 1911, and preliminary and final estimates of areas sown in 1910.

Crop.	1911 (preliminary).	1910 (preliminary).	1910 (final).	
	Acres.	*Acres.*	*Acres.*	*Bushels.*[1]
Wheat:				
Winter	14,247,800	15,523,600	.....	.....
Spring	1,289,700	614,600	.....	.....
Total wheat	15,537,500	16,138,200	16,209,500	259,181,000
Maslin	301,800	340,700	339,700	5,436,000
Rye	2,727,800	3,068,200	3,004,200	44,981,000
Barley:				
Winter	353,900	358,400	.....	.....
Spring	1,564,200	1,487,700	.....	.....
Total barley	1,918,100	1,846,100	1,850,200	43,676,000
Oats:				
Winter	1,849,600	1,978,300	.....	.....
Spring	8,101,400	7,731,300	.....	.....
Total oats	9,951,000	9,709,600	9,766,700	296,088,000

[1] Winchester bushels.

According to the preliminary estimates, for both years, the area covered by the above-named crops in 1911 is 666,600 acres less than in 1910, all winter crops, owing to an unfavorable seed time last fall, contributing to the shortage. Winter wheat is growing on a surface smaller by 1,275,800 acres than that at the same time a year ago. Spring wheat, it is true, covers an area 675,100 acres more than last year, but the deficiency in both kinds still amounts to 600,700 acres. Rye shows a deficiency of 340,400 acres, but barley increased 72,000 acres and oats 241,400 acres.

SPAIN.

The appearance of the wheat crop is officially reported better than last year in 26 Provinces and worse in 4, while in 15 the condition, owing to prolonged cold weather in April and excess of rain, is pronounced medium.

ITALY.

Seasonable weather with ample moisture is reported the past month throughout practically the entire country. Vegetation, however, retarded by cold weather in April, is still somewhat backward. Wheat harvest, about to begin in southern Provinces, is said to promise an outturn in excess of the lean crop of last year when only 153,000,000 bushels were gathered—37,000,000 less than in 1909. Little damage was done to almonds or fruit trees by the cold snap of early April, but vineyards are reported to have suffered to an as yet undeterminable extent from later frosts. It is believed that the rigorous winter may have destroyed the parasites on the olive trees, in which case it is said the crop will probably be exceptionally good.

THE NETHERLANDS.

Growing rye and wheat presents a satisfactory appearance. Rye normally covers an area about four times that of wheat, the surface under the former averaging 546,000 acres annually and that under wheat only 134,000 acres. Seedings last autumn were carried on under good conditions, but germination was slow in some districts because of drought. The winter was very mild and practically no damage resulted from winterkill. Spring, excepting for low temperatures early in April, which did some damage to meadows and rye, has been favorable both for the development of vegetation and the prosecution of the spring sowings, and the general outlook for both crops and pastures is of fine promise. According to a census of live stock taken between May 20 and June 30, 1910, the number, as compared with the latest official estimate (1904), was as follows:

Number of live stock in the Netherlands.

Kind.	1910	1904	Increase.
Cattle	2,026,943	1,690,463	336,480
Hogs	1,259,844	861,840	398,004
Sheep	889,036	606,785	282,251
Horses	327,377	295,277	32,100
Goats	224,231	165,497	58,734

The figures for 1904 relate to December, those for 1910 to June. The number of cattle in June is estimated ordinarily to exceed the number in December by about 106,000; but, owing to unusual

slaughter and exports in 1909, it is believed the actual increase is fairly well represented in the above figures. The number of sheep also is much larger in June than in December, and it is likely that in this class of animals there has in reality been no increase in the years covered by the statement.

GERMANY.

Excepting for a cool spell late in the month, the weather during May was hot and rather dry—very suitable for the completion of spring sowings, but scarcely moist enough for seasonable growth on the drier lands. Both winter wheat and rye, however, show improvement, though neither crop, on the whole, is so promising as at the same period last year. In fact, the prospect for the important rye crop is the poorest of all the cereals. Replowings, especially in central and south Germany, prove to have been quite extensive; the Imperial Statistical Committee reports 2.9 per cent of the area sown to wheat to have been turned under; 5.6 per cent of the winter spelt; 2.3 per cent of the winter rye; 3.9 per cent of the clover; and 3.4 per cent of the alfalfa. Last year only two-tenths of 1 per cent of the winter wheat and rye was plowed up and three-tenths of 1 per cent of the clover and alfalfa. The heaviest recorded abandonment was in 1907, when 27.4 per cent of the wheat and 4.1 per cent of the rye were replowed. The condition of the crops in mid-May has recently been the subject of a report by the above-named committee. The returns are shown in the following statement, the figures for April 15, 1911, and May 15, 1910, and previous years being given for comparison:

Condition of crops in Germany.

[1=very good; 2=good; 3=medium; 4=poor; 5=very poor.]

Crop.	May 15, 1911.	Apr 15, 1911.	May 15, 1910.	May 15, 1909.	May 15, 1908.	May 15, 1907.
Winter wheat	2.6	2.7	2.3	3.1	2.3	3.0
Spring wheat	2.6	.....	2.5	2.6	2.6	2.5
Winter spelt	2.7	2.9	2.2	2.6	2.6	2.4
Winter rye	2.8	2.8	2.6	3.0	2.6	2.9
Spring rye	2.7	.....	2.4	2.6	2.3	2.4
Barley	2.4	.....	2.4	2.6	2.3	2.3
Oats	2.6	.....	2.5	2.7	2.5	2.4
Clover	2.9	3.0	2.3	2.9	2.9	2.8
Alfalfa	2.8	2.9	2.5	2.8	2.3	2.2

AUSTRIA.

The report of the Austrian Ministry of Agriculture on mid-May agricultural conditions reveals a situation not particularly encouraging. All growing grain, excepting corn, compares more or less unfavorably with appearances at the same date last year. Wheat, it is true, shows some improvement over last month, although rust

is reported in many districts. But the more important bread grain, rye, is said to have suffered severely from cold weather in April; considerable areas have been plowed under, and the condition of the standing crop has not improved since the April report. Barley and oats have made seasonable progress, but the condition of potatoes, sugar beets, and clover is not so promising as in May last year.

Crop conditions in Austria.

[1=very good; 2=good; 3=medium; 4=poor; 5=very poor.]

Crop.	May 15, 1911.	Apr. 15, 1911.	May 15, 1910.	Apr. 15, 1910.
Wheat	2.5	2.6	1.9	2.0
Rye	3.1	2.9	2.5	2.3
Barley	2.3	2.8	2.2	2.3
Oats	2.4	2.6	2.3	2.1
Corn	2.1	.....	2.2	.....
Potatoes	2.2	.....	2.4	.....
Sugar beets	2.8	.....	2.7	.....
Clover	2.8	3.0	2.0	2.1

HUNGARY.

The Hungarian Ministry of Agriculture, reporting upon the condition of crops May 24, speaks very highly of the condition of wheat, which in the southern part of the country was coming into head. Rust was reported in some places, due to cool, moist weather, but in the greater part of the country the plants were healthy and their luxuriant growth inspired fears of lodging. Winter barley at the time of the report had blossomed; a frost occurred while it was in bloom, but the extent of damage had not been determined. Spring-sown barley was of promising appearance, but oats, which in some places were very weedy, needed warm, dry weather.

ROUMANIA.

Drought and very warm weather in many districts during the first three weeks of May caused solicitude, but late in the month partially sufficient rains were reported, and the outlook has improved. The history of the wheat crop since seeding last autumn scarcely warrants hope that the yield will take rank among the best of preceding years. Sowings last fall, it will be remembered, were not altogether under the best auspices, and weather conditions this spring have not given rise to the enthusiastic expressions of confidence in big yields that were characteristic of the crop reports at the corresponding period last year. This country often suffers from the effects of drought, and as a result the yield of wheat is likely to vary greatly from one year to another. Last season the output was 110,671,000 bushels, whereas the crop immediately preceding amounted to 56,751,000 bushels.

The Roumanian Ministry of Agriculture is quoted as authority for the statement that the appearance of the wheat crop indicates a yield of 20 per cent above average. As the average is about 75,000,000 bushels the likelihood would seem to be for a yield of 90,000,000 bushels.

RUSSIA.

The uncertain tone that early in the season usually characterizes crop news from this important producer seems this year accentuated. The winter cereals, which comprise practically all the rye but only about 25 per cent of the wheat, have been reported damaged to a large but not definitely determinable extent in Kherson, Bessarabia, Podolia, Volhynia, Ekaterinoslav, Poltava, Taurida, and Northern Caucasia by late March frosts. As in these Provinces is ordinarily grown about one-tenth of the total area under rye in European Russia and three-fifths of the total winter wheat, it is apparent that the damage, especially to the latter, is likely to be of important proportions. The spring crops were in general sown late, and in many provinces of the south, where spring wheat is especially important, persistent drought and intense heat for a great part of May tried vegetation severely. Rains late in the month relieved the situation to a greater or less extent in many districts, but considerable dissatisfaction is still expressed in parts over the outlook. A recent semiofficial statement is that the prospect for winter wheat in the southwest, center, and southeast is unsatisfactory, but in other sections the prospect for both spring and winter varieties is fair.

Approved:

JAMES WILSON,
Secretary of Agriculture.

WASHINGTON, D. C., *June 9, 1911.*

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